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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056209

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 07500, SENT SECSTATE INFO BUCHAREST 01 MARCH:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 07500

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SHUM, RO, UNESCO
SUBJECT: UNESCO: DUMITRESCU

REF: STATE 038416

1. LE MONDE OF FEBRUARY 28 PUBLISHED ON PAGE 4 EXTRACTS FROM A STATEMENT DUMITRESCU RELEASED THROUGH HIS DAUGHTER WHO CURRENTLY IS IN PARIS. ESSENCE OF STATEMENT WAS THAT DUMITRESCU, PROTESTING HAS LONG-STANDING AND SINCERE SUPPORT OF THE POLITICAL REGIME OF ROMANIA, SAID THAT HE NEVERTHELESS WOULD NOT SUBMIT TO INJUSTICE AND CALUMNY; THEREFORE, HE WILL SEEK TO RENOUNCE HIS ROMANIAN CITIZENSHIP. (AIRPOUCHING ARTICLE.)
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2. AMBASSADOR TORRES, ACCOMPANIED BY USNATCOM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GUERRA-MONDRAGON CALLED ON DG M'BOW FOR MEETING ON VARIOUS NATCOM-UNESCO RELATED PROJECTS. GUERRA-MONDRAGON WARMLY RECEIVED BY DG, RECOUNTING MUTUAL CARIBBEAN FRIENDS AND DISCUSSIONS ON NATCOM AFRICAN DIASPORA PROJECT.

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3. DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS, DG COMMENTING ON FORTHCOMING EXBD MEETING TOUCHED ON ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS TO BE RAISED. IN CONTEXT OF TALKS, DUMITRESCU PROBLEM WAS RAISED AND REFERENCE MADE BY AMBASSADOR TORRES THAT LE MONDE ARTICLE APPEARED TO RESOLVE PROBLEM, SINCE RENOUNCING OF CITIZENSHIP BY DUMITRESCU WOULD PRECIPITATE HIS EXPULSION BY GOR, THUS BEING A FACE-SAVING DEVICE.

4. DG EXPRESSED DIFFERENCE, SAYING THAT DUMITRESCU MADE STATEMENT UNDER GREAT DURESS. AT THIS POINT, HE IS UNDER SUCH SEVERE PRESSURE THAT HE IS WILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO LEAVE, BUT THAT DAILY POLICE INTERROGATIONS ARE WEARING HIM DOWN IN THE HOPE THAT HE WILL CRACK. HE IS NOT ALLOWED CONTACT WITH ANY UN PERSONNEL, ALTHOUGH HE MANAGED TO SMUGGLE OUR STATEMENT HIS DAUGHTER GAVE TO LE MONDE. DUMITRESCU NOW ADMITS HE ERRED IN MAKING THIS STATEMENT.

5. DG IS CONSIDERING DISPATCHING LEN MARTIN, UNESCO EXBD CHAIRMAN, TO DISCUSS ISSUE WITH GOR. MOREOVER, ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION OF UN WILL BE MEETING IN LONDON TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE TO COINCIDE WITH REPORT TO UNESCO EXBD AND GENERAL CONFERENCE. IT IS DG'S OPINION THAT GOR HOPES TO PRESSURE DUMITRESCU
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TO RESIGN AND CAPITULATE PRIOR TO THESE MEETINGS. SUCH RESIGNATION OR ADMISSION OF ANY CRIME AGAINST THE STATE AT THIS POINT WOULD DOOM HIM TO AN IMMEDIATE TRIAL RESULTING IN IMPRISONMENT. DG DID NOT RULE OUT FOUL PLAY THAT WOULD RESULT IN DUMITRESCU'S DEATH.

6. DG APPEALED TO USG FOR ANY HELP IT COULD BRING TO BEAR ON THIS CASE. AMBASSADOR TORRES WAS NON-COMMITTAL, EXPRESSING ONLY THAT THE CASE WAS BEING WATCHED.

7. ON FEBRUARY 21, DELOFF DISCUSSED DUMITRESCU CASE WITH UNESCO LEGAL ADVISER CLAUDE LUSSIER, WHO SAID HE DOUBTED THAT AN ADVISORY OPINION OF THE ICJ WOULD HAVE ANY AFFECT ON GOR'S ATTITUDE TOWARD DUMITRESCU CASE.

8. FURTHERMORE, LUSSIER MAINTAINS THAT ANY DECISION TO SEEK AN ADVISORY OPINION FROM THE ICJ MUST BE TAKEN BY THE EXBD AND NOT THE DG. HE RECALLED THAT AUSTRALIAN MEMBER HUGH PHILP HAD RAISED QUESTION OF RECOURSE TO THE ICJ AT 102ND EXBD SESSION (SPRING 1977) AND HAD RECEIVED LITTLE SUPPORT FROM OTHER MEMBERS. UNDER

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THESE CONDITIONS, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR SOME EXBD MEMBER TO ORGANIZE A CAMPAIGN TO RAISE THE MATTER AND FORCE A VOTE ON IT. GIVEN SOLIDARITY OF USSR AND EES WITH GOR, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT A CONSENSUS COULD BE OBTAINED.

9. DELOFF ASKED IF THERE EXISTS ANYWHERE A CLEAR AND COHERENT STATEMENT OF GOR CHARGES AGAINST DUMITRESCU, AND LUSSIER SAID THERE DOES NOT. HE RECALLED THAT THE GOR'S ORIGINAL CHARGE WAS THAT DUMITRESCU HAS FAILED TO COMPLY WITH ROMANIAN LAW THAT ANY ROMANIAN CITIZEN RECEIVING HARD CURRENCY INCOME (NOT JUST INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION EMPLOYEES, BUT ALL ROMANIANS EMPLOYED IN ANY CAPACITY OUTSIDE OF ROMANIA) MUST CONVERT A CONFIDENTIAL

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CERTAIN PORTION OF THAT INCOME INTO ROMANIAN CURRENCY. HOWEVER, DUMITRESCU HAS SINCE MADE THE REQUIRED CONVERSION, AND THAT ISSUE WOULD APPEAR TO BE SETTLED.

10. IN FEBRUARY 28, FOBES TOLD US THAT LUSSIER IS CORRECT IN STATING THAT THE INITIATIVE ON DUMITRESCU NOW LIES WITH THE EXBD AND NOT THE DG. HOWEVER, AT 104TH SESSION (APRIL-JUNE 1978) DG MAY ASK THE EXBD TO LET HIM TAKE BACK THE INITIATIVE. FOBES THOUGHT THAT ONE REASON HUCH PHILP'S INIATIVE IN RAISING THE ICJ ISSUE LAST YEAR DID NOT GET ANY SUPPORT WAS THAT IT WAS POORLY FLOOR-MANAGED. HE THOUGHT LUSSIER COULD HAVE BEEN OF MORE HELP IN THIS INSTANCE.

11. FOBES CONTINUES IN CONTACT WITH THE DAUGHTER, WHOM HE SAYS IS ACTING WITH RESTRAINT, AND IS NOT A PUSHY TYPE ANYWAY. HE IS WILLING TO CONTINUE TO ACT AS A GO-BETWEEN, AND TO INTRODUCE HER TO AMBASSADOR TORRES. WE DID NOT TAKE UP THE LATTER OFFER AND REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT AMBASSADOR OR DELOFF SHOULD HAVE CONTACT WITH HER.
TORRES UNQUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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